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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,307	02/09/2004	Yasuhisa Ichifuji	500.35360CX2	6641

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,307

Applicant(s)

ICHIFUJI ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/844,431.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/30/05; 2/7/05; 9/23/04; 5/10/04</u> ✓ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 19-20 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "the omission display controller" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "the omission display controller" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 29 recites the limitation "the omission display controller" in line 22. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 30 recites the limitation "the omission display controller" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12-18 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler et al. (US patent No. 5,585,838) in view of Bruette et al (US

Patent No. 5,828,419), and further in view of the Video Guide User's Manual, Part # 030-10011, revision 1.0, 1995 (page 12).

In considering claim 12, Lawler et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a receiver which receives video program and program information including a title and time information of a video program is met by the interactive station controller (set-top box) 18 (Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 7-27), 2) the claimed a video decoder which decodes the received video program is met by the digital video decoder 54 and the video processor subsystem 63 (Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 27-65), 3) the claimed a menu-grid display controller to effect display of a menu of at least present and future programs for a plurality of channels in a grid is met by the display of Fig. 8 which displays the present and future programs (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48), 4) the claimed an omission display controller which omits a part of a character information extracted from the program information when a number of characters in the character information of the particular program is larger than a number of characters which can be displayed in a first prescribed zone indicative of a prescribed time period attached to a last tail part of the menu is met by the interactive controller 18 which is controlled the generation and display of the program time guide on the video display 20 and Fig. 3 which has the label 89 of the program tile 88 may be the program title, an abbreviation of the program title or any other indicator which identifies the corresponding program (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48), 5) the claimed a full display controller to control display of, in response to a predetermined selection, an entirety of the character information of the particular

program in a second prescribed zone is met by the program summary panel 108 which may include a preview window 110, the full title of the program 112, a description of the program 114, and may also contain one or more information icons (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 10, lines 16-56 and col. 14, lines 23-48), and 6) the claimed an outputter which outputs the character information generated by the menu-grid display controller, the omission display controller and the full display controller is met by the video display 20 (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 10, lines 16-56 and col. 14, lines 23-48).

However, Lawler et al explicitly do not disclose: 1) the claimed an information decoder which decodes the received program information, and 2) the claimed display an entirety of the character information of the particular future program in a second prescribed zone.

1) Bruette et al teach that the MPEG chip 22 comprises a video decoder and on screen display generator 24, and an audio decoder 25, the MPEG chip 22 functions to decompress the audio and video data output by the channel demultiplexer 16, which is transmitted by the provider in a compressed format (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 10-59).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the a video decoder and on screen display generator as taught by Bruette et al into Lawler et al's system in order to decode the information data so that it can be displayed on the television receiver.

2) The Video Guide User's Manual, Part # 030-10011, revision 1.0, 1995 (page 12) teaches that display program guide in expanded format which has the omitted symbol (...) in the extended program "Little Nemo: Adventures in...".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the omitted symbol displays in the future program as taught by the Video Guide User's Manual, Part # 030-10011, revision 1.0, 1995 (page 12) into Lawler et al' system in order to allow a user to determine what programs will be available in the future and increasing the efficiency of navigation by the user through the guide.

In considering claim 13, the claimed a multiplexer which multiplexes the decoded video program and the character information of programs is met by the mixer 64 (Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 45-65 of Lawler et al).

In considering claim 14, the claimed wherein the omission display controller adds an omission symbol to a remaining part of the character information of the particular program from which a part was omitted when displaying the remaining part of the character information of the particular future program from which a part was omitted In the first prescribed zone in the grid is met by the interactive controller 18 which is controlled the generation and display of the program time guide on the video display 20 and Fig. 3 which has the label 89 of the program tile 88 may be the program title, an abbreviation of the program title or any other indicator which identifies the corresponding program (Figs. 3 and 8, col. 8, line 21 to col. 9, line 17 and col. 14, lines 23-48 of Lawler et al).

Claim 15 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 12.

In considering claim 16, the claimed wherein the omission display controller has a comparator to compare the decoded character data amount with data amount which

can be displayed in the first prescribed zone is met by the microprocessor 15 which can compare the restriction criteria input by the viewer to determine which program events should be denoted (Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 4-17 of Bruette et al).

Claims 17-18 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 13-14, respectively.

Claim 22 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 12 and further the claimed a television display unit to receive an output from the video decoder and outputter to display the at least one of video program or character information of programs is met by the video display 20 such as television (Fig. 2, col. 7, line 7 to col. 8, line 21 of Lawler et al).

Claims 23-24 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 13-14, respectively.

Claim 25 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 12 and further the claimed a television display unit to receive an output from the video decoder and outputter to display the at least one of video program or character information of programs is met by the video display 20 such as television (Fig. 2, col. 7, line 7 to col. 8, line 21 of Lawler et al).

Claim 26 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 20.

Claims 27-28 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 13-14, respectively.

5. Claims 19-21 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coleman et al (US Patent No. 5,844,620) in view of Bruette et al (US Patent No. 5,828,419).

In considering claim 19, Coleman et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a receiver which receives video program and program information including a title and time information of a video program is met by the cable television receiver 32 (Fig. 2, col. 13, line 38 to col. 16, line 65), 2) the claimed a video decoder which decodes the received video program is met by the video processor 52 (Fig. 2, col. 13, line 38 to col. 14, line 7), 3) the claimed a menu-grid display controller to effect display a menu of at least present and future programs for a plurality of channels in a grid is met by the display of Fig. 10 which displays the present and future programs (Figs. 6-10, col. 21, line 1 to col. 22, line 50), 4) the claimed a display change controller which changes a displayed shape of a particular background information block indicative of a program time period in the grid when the program time period indicated by the particular background information block exceeds a program time period which is displayed in a first prescribed zone is met by the title fields 257 and 258 of the program guide display of Fig. 10 which have distinctive appearance, such as a triangular shaped end, that indicates that the program extends beyond the current time window (Fig. 10, col. 21, line 44 to col. 22, line 57), 5) the claimed a full display controller to control display of, a program start time and a program end time of the program time period indicated by the particular background information block in a second prescribed zone for any program when the program whose background information block is changed in the

shape is selected in a first prescribed zone is met by the arrow buttons 300 and 304 which are used to scroll the display to the time or date later or earlier than the time and date presently displayed and the "info" button 314 under controlled of the microprocessor 36 (Fig. 10, col. 21, line 44 to col. 22, line 57), and 6) the claimed an outputter which outputs the character information generated by the menu-grid display controller, the omission display controller and the full display controller is met by the display monitor 54 (Fig. 2, col. 13, line 49 to col. 14, line 7).

However, Lawler et al. explicitly does not disclose the claimed an information decoder which decodes the received program information.

Bruette et al teach that the MPEG chip 22 comprises a video decoder and on screen display generator 24, and an audio decoder 25, the MPEG chip 22 functions to decompress the audio and video data output by the channel demultiplexer 16, which is transmitted by the provider in a compressed format (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 10-59).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the a video decoder and on screen display generator as taught by Bruette et al into Coleman et al's system in order to decode the information data so that it can be displayed on the television receiver.

In considering claim 20, the claimed wherein the omission display controller has a comparator to compare the time information of a program with a time band to be displayed in the first prescribed zone is met by the microprocessor 15 which can compare the restriction criteria input by the viewer to determine which program events should be denoted (Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 4-17 of Bruette et al).

Claim 29 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 19 and further the claimed a television display unit to receive an output from the video decoder and outputter to display the at least one of video program or character information of programs is met by the display monitor 54 (Fig. 2, col. 13, line 49 to col. 14, line 7 of Coleman et al).

Claim 30 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 20.


In considering claim 31, the claimed a multiplexer which multiplexes the decoded video program and the character information of programs is met by the output drivers 28 (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 33-59 of Bruette et al).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7358. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT 
May 31, 2005


TRANSTPAM
PATENT EXAMINER